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LESSON LEARNED

Children and Disasters: Developing Disaster Preparedness Resources in Multiple Languages

SUMMARY

The New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management translated *What's the Plan Stan?* emergency preparedness resources from English into the native New Zealand language Māori. This helps to ensure that students who speak Māori have the necessary information and resources to be prepared for a disaster.

DESCRIPTION

The New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management developed *What's the Plan Stan?* in 2006 to assist teachers in educating schoolchildren between the ages of 7 and 12 about disaster preparedness. The program's Web site contains resources that students and their families can utilize to assist in their household's disaster preparedness efforts. The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management translated these resources into Te Reo Māori as part of an initiative called "Kia Takatū." This initiative is designed to be used in conjunction with the English version of *What's the Plan Stan?*.

New Zealand has a population of 4,252,277 and a total land area of 267,710 square kilometers. Its landscape is primarily mountainous with large coastal areas. Te Reo Māori is the language of the indigenous population of New Zealand. "Te Reo" translates to "the language" while Māori is the official name. Approximately 131,000 New Zealand residents, or 4 percent of the population, speak Māori.

Kia Takatū supports New Zealand teachers in promoting disaster preparedness to schoolchildren who speak Māori. Students and their families can utilize the Māori resources to assist in disaster preparedness efforts. Children learn about six types of incidents—earthquakes, floods, manmade disasters, storms, tsunamis, and volcanoes—that have occurred in New Zealand.

Kia Takatū materials include a resource book for teachers, a CD-ROM, and an audio CD with stories in Te Reo Māori. Teachers can also download materials and templates for students and parents to review. In addition, teachers and children can download and read disaster stories for the six types of incidents. These resources can help ensure that students who speak Māori can learn about and prepare for disasters.

The New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management launched *What's the Plan Stan?* in 2006. For more information, refer to the *Lessons Learned Information Sharing Lesson Learned*, [School Emergency Planning: Developing Disaster Preparedness Resources for Schools](#).

CITATION

New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, *What's the Plan Stan?*.
<http://www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz/>

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